GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1373
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
ANNAPURNA SCHEME IN KERALA
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether `Annapurna` is the Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India in Kerala has not received the authorisation for distribution of the foodgrains under the Scheme for the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The `Annapurna` Scheme, which has been launched wef. 1.4.2000, aims at providing food security to those senior citizens who though eligible have remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). Under the Scheme , 10 Kgsof foodgrains per beneficiary are provided free of cost, every month. The beneficiaries under this Scheme must be 65 years or older and destitute, having little or no regular means of subsistence from either own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources. In order to determine destitution, the criteria currently in force (if any) in the States/ UTs may also be used.

(c) & (d) Funds to the State of Kerala were not released, so far, under the `Annapurna` Scheme during the currentyear , as the State Government could not utilise 75% of the funds released during the previous year. However, the Regional Offices of the FCI including FCI Thiruvanthapuram, have been authorised to release foodgrains for the current year (2001-02) on payment, by the State, out of the funds released by the Ministry of Rural Development during the previous year (2000-01).